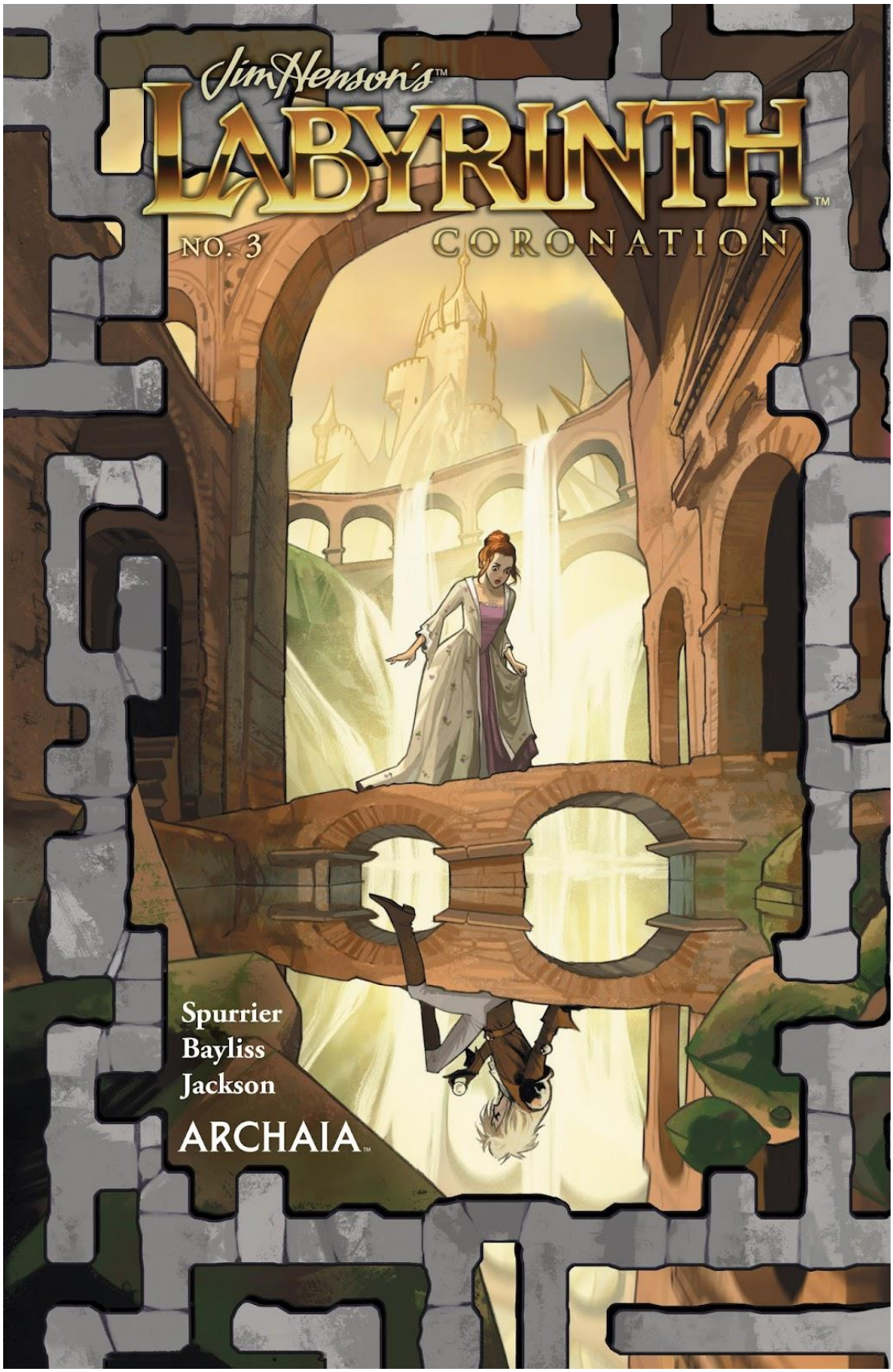
Jim Henson's™
LABYRINTH™
NO. 3
CORONATION
Spurrier
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Jim Henson's LABYRINTH CORONATION

Written by Simon Spurrier

Illustrated by Daniel Bayliss

with layouts by Mattia Di Meo

Page 15 spot illustration by Matt Smith

Page 21 by Michael Dialynas with Daniel Bayliss

Page 22 by Michael Dialynas

Colored by Dan Jackson

Lettered by Jim Campbell

Character Designs by Kyla Vanderklugt

Cover by Fiona Staples

Subscription Cover by Rebekah Isaacs

Designer Michelle Ankley

Assistant Editor Gavin Gronenthal

Editors Cameron Chittock and Sierra Hahn

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ARCHAIA

Jim Henson
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WAAAAAAAAAAAAA!
Sssshhh... sssshhh...KEEP IT DOWN...
JARETH'S GONNA GET BACK ANY SECOND, KID. HE GETS ANGRY IF HE CAN'T HEAR HIMSELF THINK.
YOU WANNA HEAR THE REST OF THAT STORY OR NOT, huh?
LISTEN, TRUST ME, IF THERE'S ONE THING THE LABYRINTH TEACHES EVERYONE, IT'S THAT YOU DON'T GET NOWHERE FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF.
SOONER OR LATER, YOU GOTTA JUST-- Y'KNOW--
"--PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER."
"AND--YOU TAKE IT FROM ME--THE ONLY THING MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHICH PATH YOU CHOOSE--
"--IS WHO YOU'RE WALKIN' IT WITH."
LAST CHANCE, FOOL! HAND OVER YOUR VALUABLES OR I SHALL SLIT YOU FROM GUMS TO GIZZARDS!

VILLAIN!
...
WAIT.

THERE'S NOBODY HERE. W-WHAT WERE YOU DOING TO THAT MOSAIC?
I WAS REHEARSING BEING DREADFUL! IT TAKES PRACTICE!
THAT REALLY HURT!
I'M SORRY! I CAN GET A BIT-- CARRIED AWAY-- BUT--
--THEN, MADAM, I TOO SHALL GET CARRIED AWAY--WITH MY SWORD OF TERROR, AND, AND, uhm...
"Oh, FOR PITY'S SAKE--COME ON! YOU THINK YOU'RE THE FIRST TO BE OVERWHELMED?"

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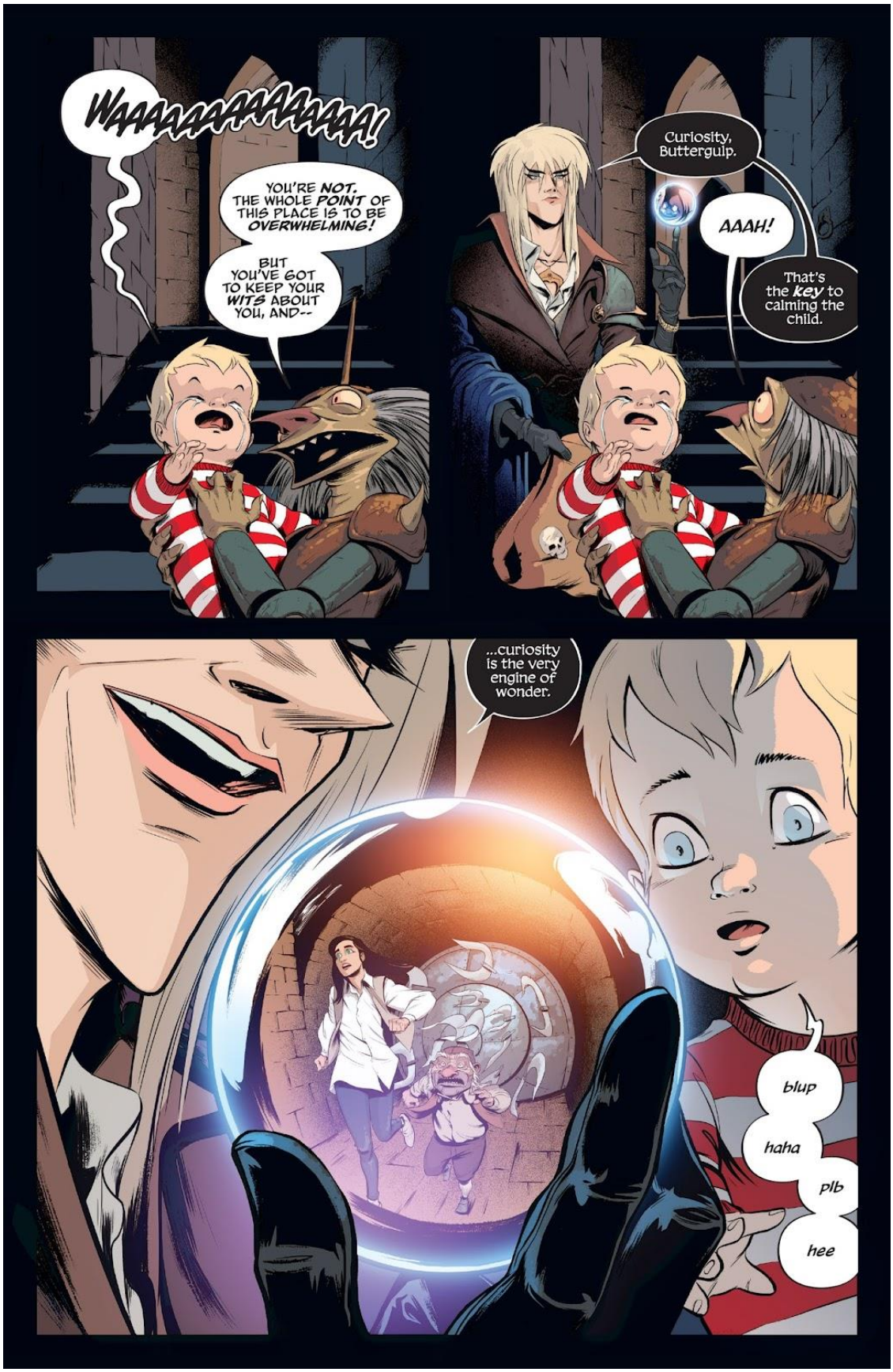
WAAAAAAAAAAAAA!
YOU'RE NOT. THE WHOLE POINT OF THIS PLACE IS TO BE OVERWHELMING!
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU, AND--
Curiosity, Buttergulp.
AAAH!
That's the key to calming the child.
...curiosity is the very engine of wonder.
blup
haha
plb
hee

There, you see? That's your sister, little fellow.
For now.
See how she crashes and thrashes?
One minute rushing to, the next minute rushing from. No focus.
Why, she's attached herself to the least trustworthy ally she can. She'll fail. It's inevitable.
HOW, uh, HOW DID THE OTHER ONE MANAGE, SIRE? FROM YOUR STORY?
YOUR M--
She had no need of allies.
She was fierce and focused and impossible to distract. And she knew, from the start--
--never to show weakness.
WH-WH-WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

BECAUSE...
BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
I'M LOST AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS STUPID PLACE AND THEY'VE GOT MY SON AND IT'S HOPELESS AND I DON'T KNOW THE WAY AND A MERMAID NEARLY ATE ME AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE NICE BUT YOU ROBBED ME AND...AND... AND...
...AND EVERYTHING.
BECAUSE I'M THE WORST GOBLIN EVER BORN.
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

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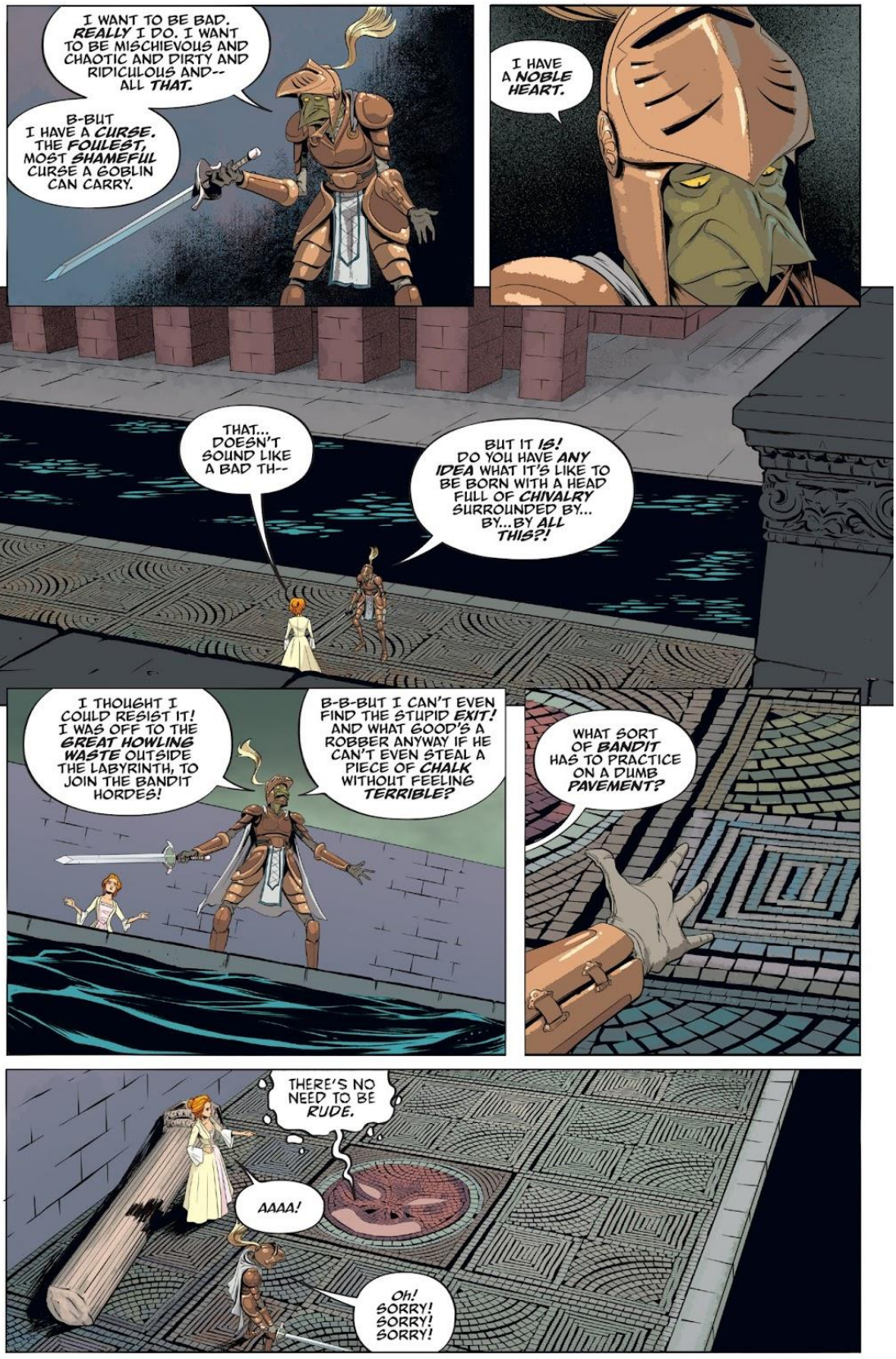
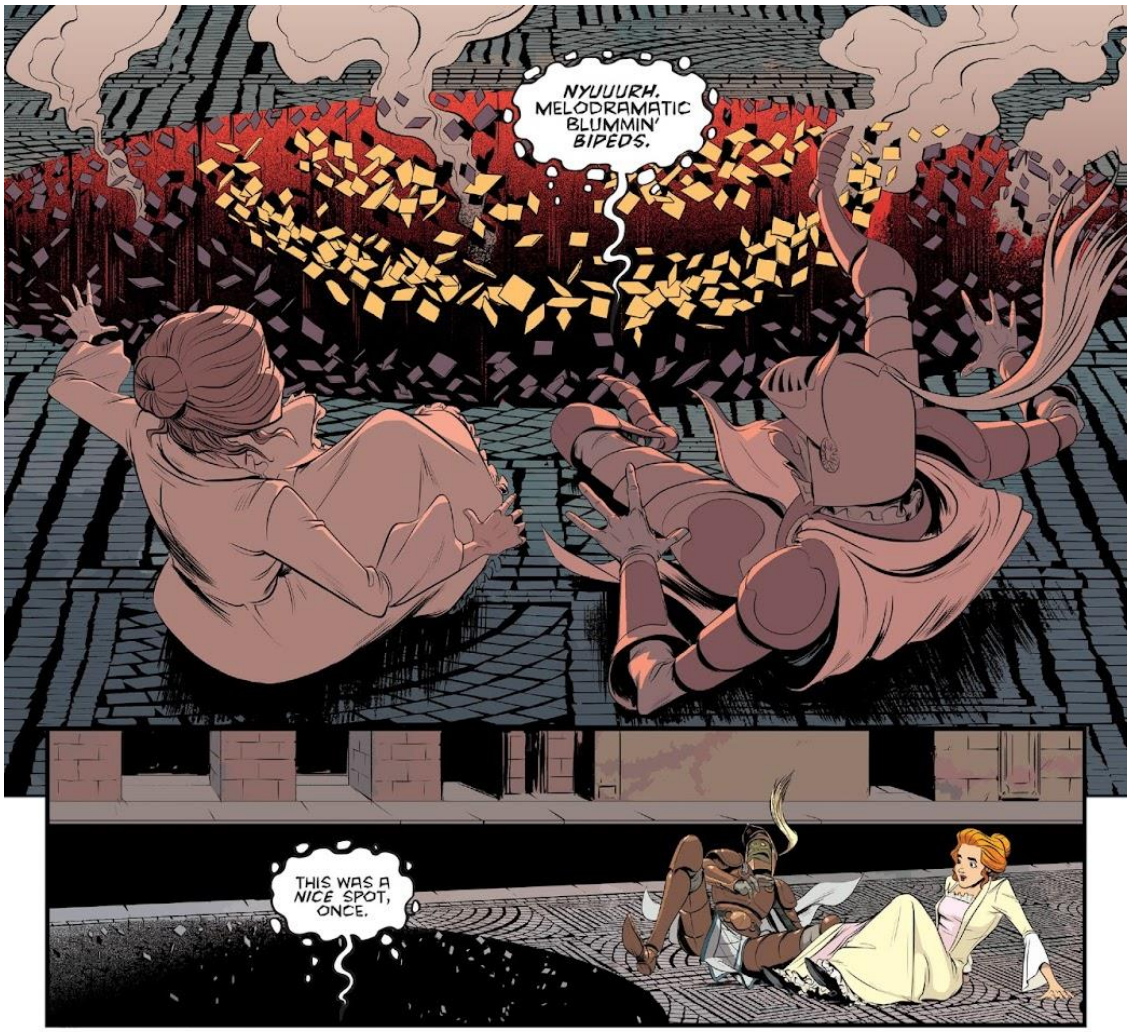

I WANT TO BE BAD. *REALLY* I DO. I WANT TO BE MISCHIEVOUS AND CHAOTIC AND DIRTY AND RIDICULOUS AND-- ALL *THAT.*
B-BUT I HAVE A *CURSE.* THE *FOULEST,* MOST *SHAMEFUL* CURSE A GOBLIN CAN CARRY.
I HAVE A *NOBLE HEART.*
THAT... DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A BAD TH--
BUT IT *IS!* DO YOU HAVE *ANY IDEA* WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE BORN WITH A HEAD FULL OF *CHIVALRY* SURROUNDED BY... BY...BY *ALL THIS?!*
I THOUGHT I COULD RESIST IT! I WAS OFF TO THE *GREAT HOWLING WASTE* OUTSIDE THE LABYRINTH, TO JOIN THE BANDIT HORDES!
B-B-BUT I CAN'T EVEN FIND THE STUPID *EXIT!* AND WHAT GOOD'S A ROBBER ANYWAY IF HE CAN'T EVEN STEAL A PIECE OF *CHALK* WITHOUT FEELING *TERRIBLE?*
WHAT SORT OF *BANDIT* HAS TO PRACTICE ON A DUMB *PAVEMENT?*
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE *RUDE.*
AAAA!
Oh! SORRY! SORRY! SORRY!


NYUUURH. MELODRAMATIC BLUMMIN' BIPEDS.
THIS WAS A NICE SPOT, ONCE.
I FELL IN LOVE WITH A VILLAIN.
I BEG YOUR PARDON?
YOU ASKED WHY I WAS CRYING.
HE WAS BEAUTIFUL AND CLEVER AND...AND CULTURED, AND ALL THE THINGS I'M NOT--AND YES, FINE, HE WAS RICH, TOO--
...BUT MOST OF ALL HE NOTICED ME. HE NOTICED ME AND HE WAS KIND.
UP UNTIL HE WASN'T.

WELL.
YOU HAVE A INCONVENIENT HEART, SIR SKUBBIN OF THE GARDEROBE, AND MINE'S NEVER BROUGHT ME ANYTHING BUT PAIN.
SO...
"...So perhaps it's time we stopped letting our hearts guide us."
...
B-BUT--YOUR MAJESTY! THAT'S A HORRIBLE MORAL OF THE STORY! YOU C--
For the last time--be quiet! And for once in your dismal little life--
--pay attention to what matters.
I SAY! YOU OVER THERE! WANNA LIFT?
TAKE YER STRAIGHT TO THE CASTLE, IF YER LIKE!
WH-WHAT? YES! YES, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I W--
COST YA, MIND.
...
HOW MUCH?
Oh, NOT MUCH, NOT MUCH. LET'S SAY, ohhhh...

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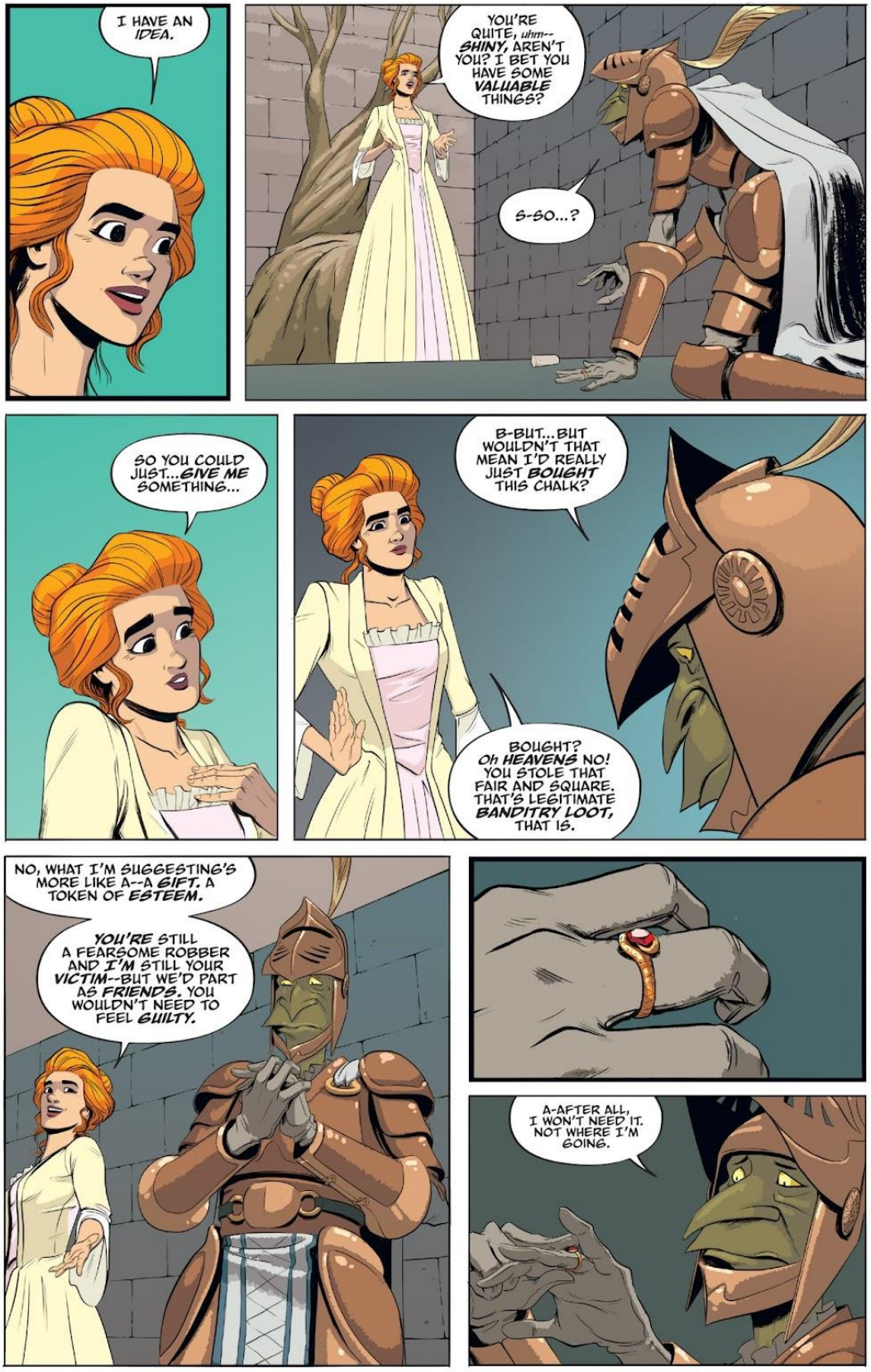
YOUR VERY
SSSOOOOUUUUL...

AAAAAAAAH,
I'M JUST MESSIN'
WITH YA, LOVE.
HAW! SHOULDA
SEEN YOUR
FACE!

NAHHH, I'M A REASONABLE GOB. I'LL DO IT FOR HALF A SOUL.
BUT--
OR A KING'S BOUNTY. OR ME OWN WEIGHT IN GOLD.
OR--Oh!-- THE SHADOW OF A UNICORN. AND THAT'S ME BEST PRICE.
OPEN TO OFFERS, MIND YOU.
BUGGER OFF! LEAVE 'ER ALONE!
YOUR LOSS!
NO, WAIT--
Ehh, IGNORE HIM. HE'S JUST A CONDOLIER.
YOU MEAN GONDOLIER?
NO, I MEAN CONDOLIER. TERRIBLE SWINDLERS, MA'AM. ONLY PLACE THEY'LL NEVER TAKE YOU IS WHEREVER THEY SAID THEY WOULD.
I... I HAVEN'T ANYTHING TO TRADE ANYWAY. EVEN THE CHALK BELONGED TO MY LITTLE BOY, A-AND YOU TOOK THAT.
Y-YOU KNOW... YESTERDAY I WAS A COUNTESS...

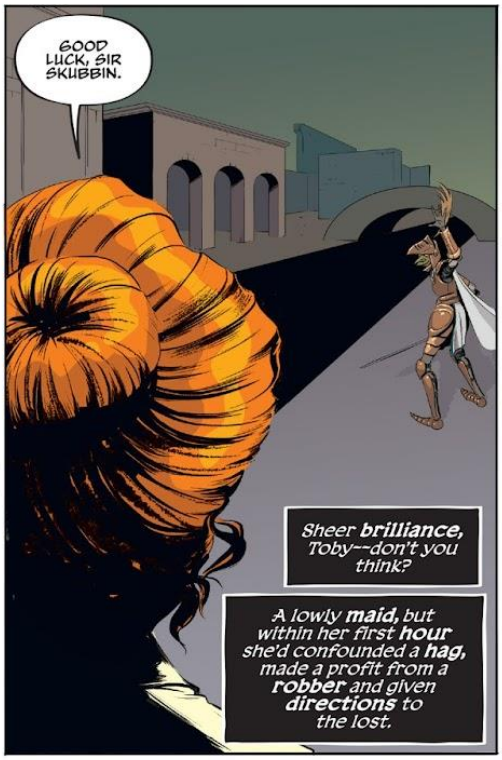
T-TODAY I HAVE LITERALLY NOTHING.
P-P-PLEASE DON'T CRY AGAIN!
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY! Y-Y-YOU CAN HAVE THE CHALK BACK! THE GUILT'S EATING ME ALIVE!
GRRRRRRR I AM THE WORST VILLAIN THE WORST AND EVEN IF I DID KNOW THE STUPID WAY OUT, THE BANDIT HORDES WOULD JUST LAUGH AT ME oh ohhhh...
SKUBBIN.
KEEP IT. I-IT'S JUST CHALK. IT ONLY SEEMS IMPORTANT BECAUSE...IT WAS HIS.
BUT WE NEED TO THINK WITH OUR HEADS INSTEAD OF OUR HEARTS-- REMEMBER?
FLNK

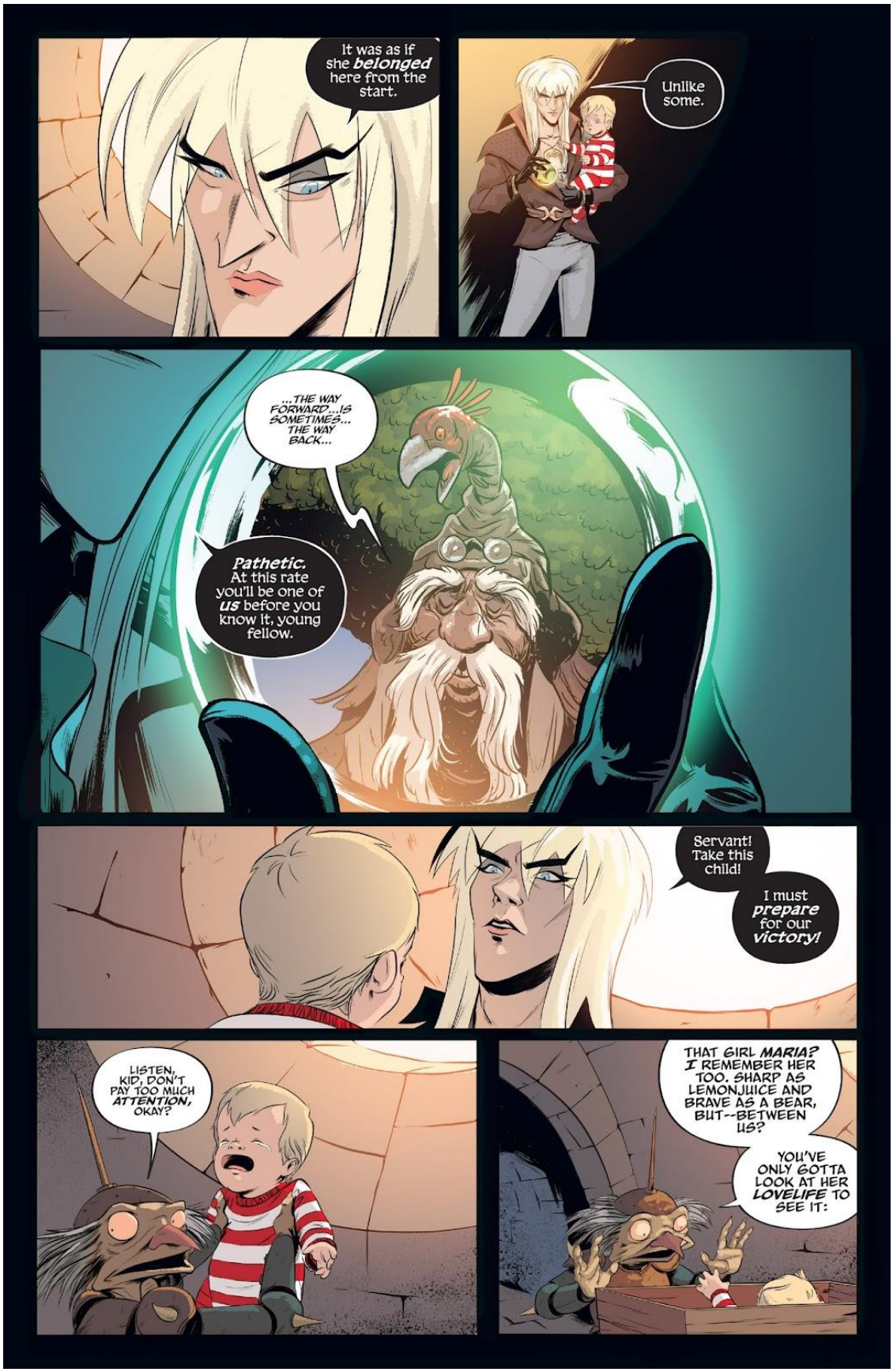

I HAVE AN IDEA.
YOU'RE QUITE, uhm-- SHINY, AREN'T YOU? I BET YOU HAVE SOME VALUABLE THINGS?
S-SO...?
SO YOU COULD JUST...GIVE ME SOMETHING...
B-BUT...BUT WOULDN'T THAT MEAN I'D REALLY JUST BOUGHT THIS CHALK?
BOUGHT? Oh HEAVENS NO! YOU STOLE THAT FAIR AND SQUARE. THAT'S LEGITIMATE BANDITRY LOOT, THAT IS.
NO, WHAT I'M SUGGESTING'S MORE LIKE A--A GIFT. A TOKEN OF ESTEEM.
YOU'RE STILL A FEARSOME ROBBER AND I'M STILL YOUR VICTIM--BUT WE'D PART AS FRIENDS. YOU WOULDN'T NEED TO FEEL GUILTY.
A-AFTER ALL, I WON'T NEED IT. NOT WHERE I'M GOING.

WHY, THANK YOU, oh FOUL AND FEARSOME ROTTER.

AND, uh... SKUBBIN? FROM ONE FRIEND TO ANOTHER?

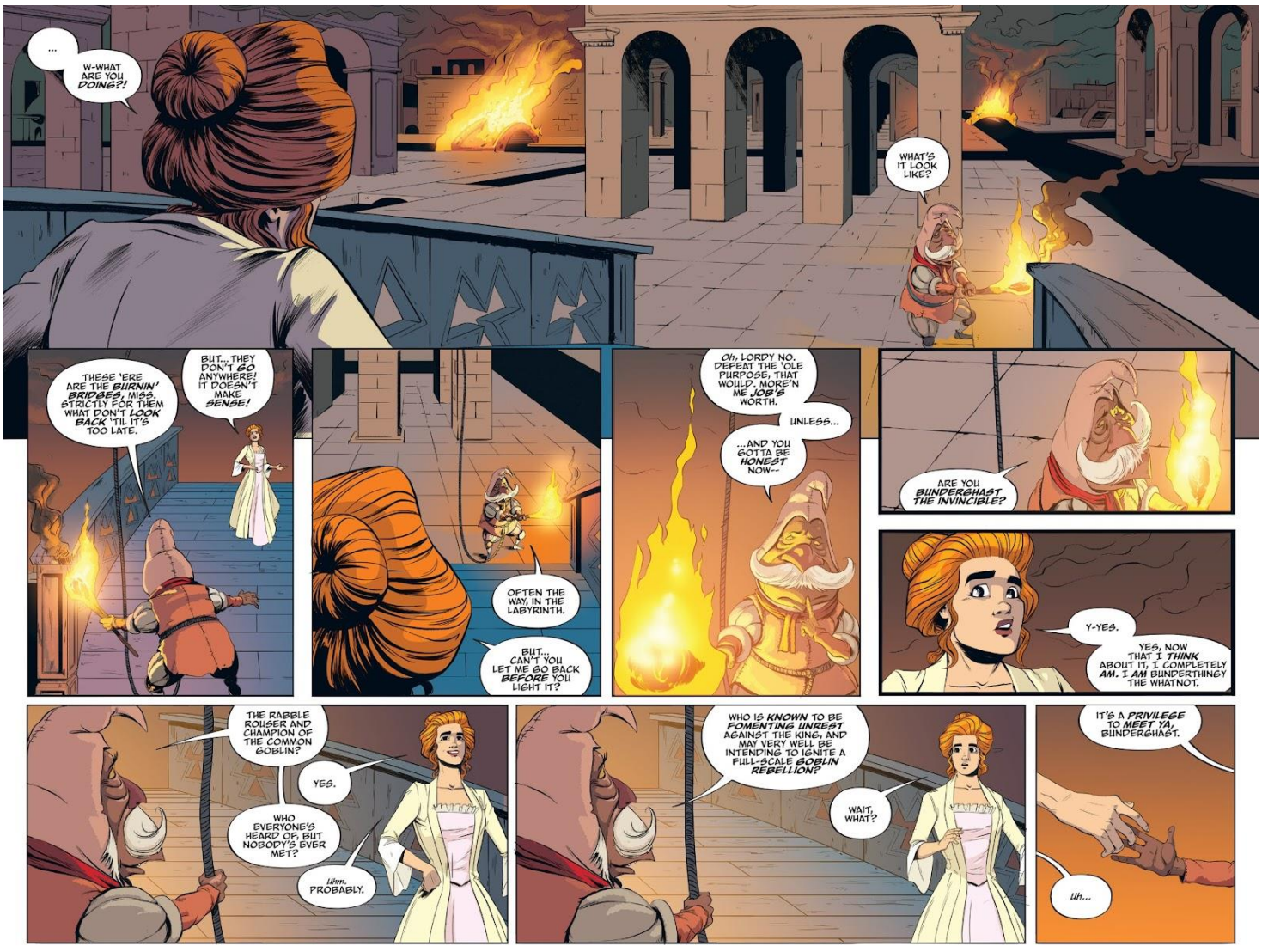
THE GATE I CAME IN THROUGH? IT'S THAT WAY.
TH--?


GOOD LUCK, SIR SKUBBIN.
Sheer brilliance, Toby--don't you think?
A lowly maid, but within her first hour she'd confounded a hag, made a profit from a robber and given directions to the lost.


It was as if she *belonged* here from the start.
Unlike some.
...THE WAY FORWARD...IS SOMETIMES... THE WAY BACK...
Pathetic. At this rate you'll be one of *us* before you know it, young fellow.
Servant! Take this child!
I must *prepare* for our *victory!*
LISTEN, KID, DON'T PAY TOO MUCH *ATTENTION,* OKAY?
THAT GIRL *MARIA?* I REMEMBER HER TOO. SHARP AS LEMONJUICE AND BRAVE AS A BEAR, BUT--BETWEEN US?
YOU'VE ONLY GOTTA LOOK AT HER *LOVELIFE* TO SEE IT:

"--SHE DIDN'T EXACTLY HAVE THE BEST JUDGEMENT..."
PLEASE! SIGNORE GONDOLIER! WAIT! I...I CAN PAY YOU NOW! I CAN--
HEY, LADY?
THIS WAY IF YOU WANNA CATCH HIM UP.
Oh. Uh... THANK YOU. THAT'S INCREDIBLY HELPF--
WAIT... HOLD IT...
YOU'RE NOT BUNDERGHAST THE INVICIBLE ARE YOU?
Uh. NO?
JOLLY GOOD. OFF YOU GO, THEN.

W-WAIT! PLEASE WAIT--
HEY, LADY! THIS WAY IF YOU WANNA CATCH HIM!
...'ERE... YOU'RE NOT BUNDERGHAST THE INVINCIBLE, ARE YOU?
NO.
SNF
SNF
HEY, LADY! THIS WAY!
SNF
SNF
IS...IS THAT SMOKE?
CAN'T SMELL A THING, MISS.
BY THE WAY, YOU WOULDN'T 'APPEN TO BE BUNDERGHAST THE--
--THE INVINCIBLE. NO. I'M NOT.
Oh! A DEAD END. WHAT A STUPID SORT OF BRIDGE.
I SUPPOSE I'D BEST RETRACE MY STEPS AND--


...
W-WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!*
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE?
THESE 'ERE ARE THE *BURNIN' BRIDGES,* NISS. STRICTLY FOR THEM WHAT DON'T *LOOK BACK* 'TIL IT'S TOO LATE.
BUT... THEY DON'T *GO* ANYWHERE! IT DOESN'T MAKE *SENSE!*
OFTEN THE WAY, IN THE LABYRINTH.
BUT... CAN'T YOU LET ME GO BACK *BEFORE* YOU LIGHT IT?
OH, LORDY NO. DEFEAT THE 'OLE PURPOSE, THAT WOULD. MORE'N ME *JOB'S* WORTH.
UNLESS...
...AND YOU GOTTA BE *HONEST* NOW--
ARE YOU *BLUNDERGHAST THE INVINCIBLE?*
Y-YES.
YES, NOW THAT I *THINK* ABOUT IT, I COMPLETELY *AM.* I *AM* BLUNDERTHINGY THE WHATNOT.
THE RABBLE ROUSER AND CHAMPION OF THE COMMON GOBLIN?
YES.
WHO EVERYONE'S HEARD OF, BUT NOBODY'S EVER MET?
Uhm, PROBABLY.
WHO IS *KNOWN* TO BE *FOMENTING UNREST* AGAINST THE KING, AND MAY VERY WELL BE INTENDING TO IGNITE A FULL-SCALE *GOBLIN REBELLION?*
WAIT, WHAT?
IT'S A *PRIVILEGE* TO *MEET YA,* BLUND'RGHAST.
Uh...

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.
THWWWIIIISK

HM. THE TRAWLERS HAVE HER.
WAAAAAAAAAAAAA
SERVANT! I TOLD YOU TO QUIETEN THAT BRAT!
S-S-SORRY, SIRE! MIGHT HE PERHAPS WATCH THE ORB? HE SEEMS CURIOUS...
ONLY FOOLS ARE CURIOUS. KINGS MUST RULE, NOT WONDER.
SEPTIMUS...? I HAVE A TASK FOR YOU.
YOU WANT ME TO SEW SHUT THE CHILD'S MOUTH?
APPEALLING, BUT--NO. I WANT YOU TO DEAL WITH THE GIRL.
D-D-DIDN'T YOU SAY SHE'D BE AN ENTERTAINMENT, YOUR MAJESTY?
THAT WAS BEFORE SHE TOOK THE RING.
YOU WANT ME TO LEAD HER BACK TO THE START?
HMP. WHAT A WASTE OF YOUR TALENTS THAT WOULD BE.
NO, SEPTIMUS-- IT'S SIMPLER THAN THAT...

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I WANT YOU TO KILL HER.
To be continued...